

FROM THE EDITOR



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Editor-in-Chief

AMWA, like numerous organizations sensitive to the needs of its members, has embarked on an initiative to explore internal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). In this issue, we describe AMWA’s commitment to DEI through an initiative including the formation of a Diversity & Inclusion Assessment Task Force. We also examine the makeup of our members via a summary of our most recent prior member survey in a piece titled “AMWA: Who We Are.” A new survey of AMWA members, the 2022 DEI Survey, has been distributed, and we encourage you to complete it soon if you haven’t already. Results from this survey will be analyzed by the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force and thus will inform upcoming DEI efforts. Additionally, in this issue we have DEI-related pieces on embracing accessibility and avoiding bias in accredited continuing education.

In a future issue, we will return to the topic of DEI to evaluate what we have learned and the enhancements to the organization that have come from AMWA’s important initiative.

Yours in medical communication excellence,
Michael

An Update from the AMWA Diversity and Inclusion Assessment Task Force

Gail V. Flores, PhD / AMWA Diversity and Inclusion Assessment Task Force Chair

In November 2021, the AMWA Board of Directors approved the creation of a Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Assessment Task Force. The charge of the task force is to analyze membership data and receive member input to help determine the current status of the organization’s D&I; identify deficiencies, needs, opportunities, and challenges related to D&I; and recommend initial strategies to enhance D&I efforts within the organization.

The response to a call for volunteers in January and February of 2022 was positive, and several AMWA members expressed their interest in serving on the task force. Task force members were selected with consideration of their diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and experience with D&I initiatives. The task force first met virtually in March, and developed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) survey that launched in August. The goal of the survey is for AMWA to gain an understanding of who our members are and what our members need with respect to DEI within the organization and in their professional lives.